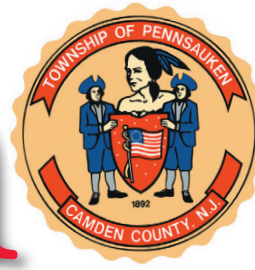


All Around Pennsauken



Happy St. Patrick's Day
& Welcome Spring!

VOL. 26, NO. 3

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

March 2021

AARP® High Demand Reduces AARP Tax-Aide Services

Due to overwhelming demand and limited availability, AARP Tax-Aide service options have been severely reduced for the 2020 tax year. All appointment slots for document scanning at the Pennsauken Library and other Camden County locations are already filled through the end of tax season, April 15.

One option is still available to those with a Windows 10, Apple MacOS or Chrome OS computer with a reliable and secure internet connection or have a mobile device that has an Android (version 5 or above) or iOS (version 12 or above) operating system: self preparation. Under this model, AARP Tax-Aide Foundation provides taxpayers with two options. First, there is free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes; this software is free only with certain income limits. The second option is that taxpayers can also request help from an IRS-certified counselor to coach them through the process of preparing their own taxes – without income limits – by phone or through screen sharing. Your request will be responded to within a day or two by a call or text from a Tax-Aide associate.

Taxpayers not very comfortable with technology are encouraged to enlist the help of family or friends for completing the tax return. But, please be assured that the AARP counselors are very patient; they get as much satisfaction in helping

continued on page 21

Pennsauken To Host Drive Thru Easter Event On March 27

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

In lieu of the Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pennsauken's Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a drive thru event for families on Saturday, March 27.

"We're excited to announce that the Easter Bunny will be back in Pennsauken to visit later this month," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "Families will be able to drive up and see everyone's favorite rabbit, along with some other furry friends"

On March 27, parents and guardians can drive their children, ages 9 and under, to one of three locations in town:

- Walt Niegorski Sports Complex, Powell and Collins avenues, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Township Municipal Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., 11:00 a.m. – noon
- "The Pit" Football Complex, 4339 Burwood Ave., 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

In addition, Pennsauken's first responders and Public Works Department will



Pennsauken families can visit the Easter Bunny and friends during a drive thru event on Saturday, March 27.

have decorated vehicles on display at each site. Children will also receive a "Bunny Bag" filled with candy and other goodies. This is a drive thru event; no walk-ups are allowed, and participants are asked to stay

in their vehicles during their visit. The rain date for the event is Saturday, April 3.

"While we do plan to host our annual Easter Egg Hunt next year, we wanted to

continued on page 21

One Year Since The COVID-19 Quarantine: Where We Are Now

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On March 13, 2020, Pennsauken began to feel the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. While there had not been a reported case of COVID-19 among residents at that time, Township facilities were closed; non-essential services were suspended; and the Pennsauken School District moved to full remote learning, all in an effort to lessen the potential impact of the virus in our community. In the months that followed, changes that were initially deemed temporary became more permanent than anticipated; hybrid and remote

learning became the ongoing norm; and the virus steadily gained momentum. The numbers are telling. As of press time, 3,712 Pennsauken residents contracted the coronavirus. There have also been 65 deaths that have been attributed to COVID-19-related complications. In spite of these sobering numbers, there is a steadily growing ray of hope. The coronavirus vaccine is available in New Jersey, with more than 1.6 million doses already administered in the state. The Township is also doing its part to help residents get inoculated.

Pennsauken's Vaccine Initiative

Pennsauken Township's municipal government launched an initiative last month to help those eligible under Phase 1B get their vaccine shots here in town. Residents have been eagerly signing up since the program's announcement.

"The response we've received from Pennsauken's COVID-19 vaccination program has been overwhelming. A steady flow of residents has submitted their consent forms to receive the coronavirus vaccine," explained Pennsauken Mayor

continued on page 27

Look! inside

Important Township Numbers
See Page 2

Health Tips For
Year Two Of Pandemic
See Page 8

Dunkin' Donates To
Food Bank
See Page 19

Pennsauken Resident
Gets Personal In Book
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Pennsauken Soundplex Site Of New Video Series

A series of videos honoring the memory of a Delaware Valley artist and furthering the work of the foundation named in his honor are being filmed at a Pennsauken-based recording studio.

"Danny's Creative House" interviews former band mates, tour managers and aficionados of the local music scene

about Danny "Rio" DeGennaro, a Bucks County singer/guitarist whose life was tragically taken in 2011. Hosted by singer/songwriter Lisa Bouchelle, the roughly 20-minute episodes retell DeGennaro's musical life, with the occasional live performance.

The first six episodes of "Danny's Creative House" feature DeGennaro's former bandmates. This video series is being filmed at the 12,000-square-foot Soundplex, a large format, analog driven recording studio, located on Rudderow Ave., right off of Cove. And while guests highlight DeGennaro's musical past, the setting for the video series bridges the future for the nonprofit organization created to keep his memory alive. John Austin Mulhern, partner at the Danny DeGennaro Foundation and president of DDF JAM Publishing, LLC and Danny DeGennaro Foundation Record Label, collaborated with George Koch, owner of The Soundplex, to see how the Foundation could

partner with what has been envisioned as an up-and-coming musical hub.

"The two philosophies are almost synergistic," Koch said. "It's almost like a marriage made in heaven and we met at the altar."

Koch envisions The Soundplex as a private music club for musicians, providing recording studio time, rehearsal space, a live event venue, as well as mentoring. He knew "almost instantly" that partnering with the Foundation would further that mission.

"A lot of these musicians try to do things on their own and they fail," Koch said. "I wanted to create an environment where we can get veterans like John [Mulhern] and others to help these young musicians out."

In turn, the Foundation's scholarship award winners and musicians signed to the record label receive studio time and rehearsal, performance space.

"It's not just a multiplex," Koch said.

"It's tied to a foundation that has its roots in mentoring and music."

"Danny's Creative House" debuted Feb. 21 – DeGennaro's 66th birthday – on the Danny DeGennaro Foundation's YouTube channel. New episodes are released every Sunday.

The Danny DeGennaro Foundation

was established in 2014 to continue the legacy of Levittown native Danny DeGennaro. The Foundation strives to assist artists and musicians through mentoring opportunities, as well as live performances, video shoots, and the ability to record music. For more information, visit <http://dannydegennaro.org>.



Important Numbers

Pennsauken Township Municipal Building:
(856) 665-1000

Clerk: x122, 123 or 124

Construction: x130, 131, or 132

Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171

Economic Development: x108

Housing/Resale/Rental: x145

Mayor's Office: x152 or 155

Parks and Recreation: x151

Planning and Zoning: x128

Senior Services: x125

Tax Assessor: x112 or 116

Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

Pennsauken Country Club:
(856) 662-4961

Pennsauken Free Public Library:
(856) 665-5959

Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau:
(856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court:
(856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control:
(856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter:
(856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:
(856) 665-8787

**Merchantville-Pennsauken
Water Commission**
(856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority:
(856) 663-5542

**South Jersey Sanitation
(Trash/Recycling Vendor):**
(609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services:
(856) 225-8800

**Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
(CCMUA):** (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:
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MAYOR'S CORNER Have A Question Or Concern? We're Ready To Listen



By Marco DiBattista,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

Every resident in Pennsauken has a voice; and it's the job of every member of Township Committee and our entire municipal staff to listen. We know that you have a variety of questions: from how to get a permit, to learning about senior services and everything in between. And while the coronavirus can make it difficult for many to visit our offices, the Township offers a variety of ways for you to share your thoughts with us.

Pennsauken Township's website, www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us, is a great resource for residents. On the main page, you'll find a button that says, "Submit A Question/

Share A Concern." By clicking on that button, you'll be redirected to a webform that allows you to submit your question directly to a specific Township department, such as our Clerk's Office or our Building Department, or to highlight a particular issue, like leaf collection or snow removal. There's also a web link to an employee directory, so that you can call or email a member of our staff.

In addition, there's a "What Department Do I Need?" page on our website. Located at www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/what-department-do-i-need, residents can find a list of topics and the corresponding Township department for that matter.

For residents unable to virtually attend our Township Committee meetings, you can actually make a comment or ask a question in advance. Visit

www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/comments-pennsauken-township-committee-meeting and fill out the form prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of our scheduled meetings.

Our social media channels are also great ways to interact with our municipal government. We post regularly at "PennsaukenTwp" on Facebook and @PennsaukenTwp on both Twitter and Instagram. You can follow us to get the latest information about what's going on in town and reach out to us directly through these accounts.

Finally, residents who want to contact the Mayor's Office directly can email me at mdibattista@twp.pennsauken.nj.us. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about what's going on in the Township.

Pennsauken has made being trans-

parent and responsive to the residents we serve a major priority. You have a voice in your local government. What you say matters. And our administration

is more than ready to listen.

Have a great month. Wishing you health and safety for you and your family.

Pennsauken Runs On Dunkin'



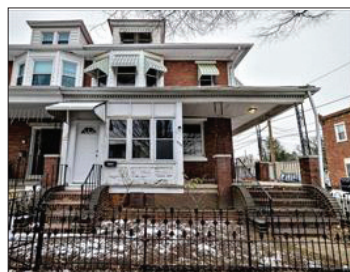
Dunkin' opened one of its next-generation restaurants at 1041 Rt. 73 South in Pennsauken. The restaurant features a new, modern look, state-of-the-art coffee equipment for consistent, quality cold and hot beverages, customizable donuts, a faster drive-thru system, and convenient, mobile pick up.

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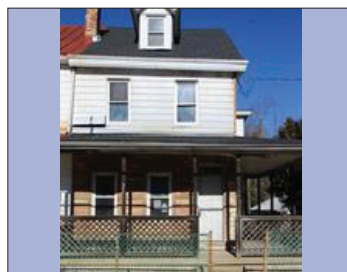
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Gloucester City – Close to Everything

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Mount Holly – Fixer-Upper

Investor Opportunity in Historic Mt. Holly. This location is in need of an Upgrade and waiting to shine. It has a Newer Roof, tons of Interior Space, plenty of off-Street Parking. Demo has already been started Just Come in with Your Vision. Asking \$139,900



Pennsauken – Just Listed

Check out this charming Bungalow In The Hillcrest section of town. Nice Size rooms And Cheap Cheap Taxes. Make your appointment today. Priced to Sell At \$164,900



Florence – Bank Owned

Investor alert! This location needs to be rehabbed and is ready for the savvy buyer. The property is a Single-family home waiting for you to put on the finishing touches, the property has a rear driveway, garage and is located on a corner lot. \$79,900



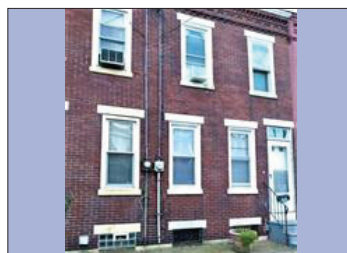
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Stunning Colonial located In Grande at Kingswood! Great Floor Plan with two story foyer. Home features a bright Formal Living Room with lots of Natural Light, Great Eat In Kitchen with Dining area overlooking the Cozy Family Room. There are also Sliding Glass Doors off the Kitchen that leads to the partially Fenced Yard. There's Full Sized Laundry Room and Powder Room on the First Floor. Upstairs a Master Suite with Walk In Closet, Master Bath with Double Sink, Soaking Tub, and Stall Shower. 3 Other Bedrooms and another Full Bath. Huge unfinished Basement that is Insulated. \$359,900



Haddon Heights – LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

Beautiful 3 story Victorian home, zoned residential/professional/office. Beautiful architectural design and wood work, Gourmet kitchen and newer AC and Heating, alarm system, sprinkler system. Close to 295, Patco and downtown Haddon Heights and close to Philadelphia. Great opportunity to work from home or lease the office space or just have a beautiful home the options are available to you. The three car garage is huge for those car enthusiasts out there or for your other hobbies or just rent it out. Asking \$335,000



Camden – Bergen Square

Brick two-bedroom townhouse convenient to Camden city center, Cooper Hospital, transportation center, Rutgers University, Cooper Medical School, NJ Aquarium, the Riverfront and all major highways. The first level features a living room, dining room, kitchen and rear pantry/office space. Second level offers two bedrooms, bathroom and rear bonus room that can be used as a child's room. A full unfinished basement is great for storage. \$67,500



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WAGSWORLD Treasures From The Past, Hoping For The Future

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

It is hard to believe we are coming up on a whole year of hiding from a disease. Like everyone else, I'm trapped in the house a lot. Finding things to do to stay sane, I've cleaned out old drawers, sorted pictures, and found a bunch of old "treasures."

I have two bumper stickers that I found buried in my legendary sock drawer that brought me both a good laugh and a solitary tear. The first says, "I was a Vietnam Vet before it was popular." The second says, "Don't blame me, we were winning when I came home."

The sentiments point out a few character flaws I've shared for years. And I

would put them on one of my vehicles this spring, if the glue is still good from 1968, when I got them.

I also found a reel of tape sent home to Mom and Dad from 1968, just before I came home. I haven't found a tape machine to play it on all winter. Somewhere out there in reader land, someone has a small reel-to-reel machine that could help unleash some old memories from "back in the day." For anyone that can get the old tape to play, I offer up a signed copy of "The Blue Parakeet is Asleep Under the Pancakes," and a bouquet of my famous carved wooden flowers.

Circling back to the beginning of this article, I'm still having trouble realizing a

whole year has passed under COVID-19 restrictions. I miss playing music with my friends. I think music in the park, or even small gatherings of friends sitting around in a music circle, are going to be lucky to come back for this summer. I know that there are far more important problems, but I'm an old man, with limited time left to enjoy songs with friends. And it is really hard to play a harmonica with a mask on.

But, as I realize March is here, I remember that striped bass season opens on March the first. I know this because that is also my birthday, and it has been

tied together with New Jersey striped bass season since I was old enough to go out with the big boys to Long Beach Island to try early season fishing. After a long winter of no fishing, that first trip gave everybody hope.

I was at LBI in 1962 on my birthday. The weather was so bad, we all retreated to the bridge walk on the bay to fish. Dad Wags, Jerry McCreery, Bill Laverty, Ed Youse, Ray Ray Sullivan, and a fourteen-year-old me were on the causeway that night. Only Ed Youse and I remain of that group. The next day, the storm ripped apart the New Jersey coast, cut-

ting LBI in three or four pieces, and millions of dollars of losses up and down the coast.

I hope to go again this year, God willing, and the crick don't rise. But if they call for a nor'easter this year, you can find me on the couch, with the bride. I may be older, but not stupider. 'Till we can shake hands, adios.

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PENNSAUKEN MARCH PUBLIC MEETINGS

March's public meetings are being held remotely via Zoom. Details on how the public can participate can be found on twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Township Committee
March 4 and 18, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment
March 3 and 17, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board
March 2 and 23, 6:30 p.m.

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Pennsauken Police Win Battle Of The Badges Blood Drive



The Pennsauken Township Police Department took the top spot at this year's Battle of the Badges Blood Drive.

On Jan. 28, the annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive was held at the Pennsauken Country Club. Organized by Patrolman Jeff DiNoto, the event is a friendly competition between Pennsauken's first responders to see who can recruit the most eligible donors during an American Red Cross blood drive.

One hundred and sixteen donors par-

ticipated in this year's Battle of Badges, 18 of whom were giving blood for the first time. At the end of the day, the Pennsauken Township Police Department took the top spot for 2021 with 47 donors; but the real winners were the over 330 people who were helped by these blood donations.

Thanks to Chelsea Danyo of the

American Red Cross Chelsea Danyo for her hard work in setting up this great event. And a very special thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood!

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A Long-Standing Winter Tradition



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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

In early February, the groundhog did see his shadow and the winter weather continued immediately. During one of the mid-February snowstorms, Pennsauken's Department of Public Works Superintendent Anthony Feriozzi and I were recalling my first few months in early 2015, where we could not keep enough salt on hand for the weekly snowfall due to storage and supplier issues. This led to the construction of our salt storage building later that year, which holds about four storms worth of salt. We sleep much better now.

February's snowfall reminded us that we have been lucky due to the mild winters in 2019 and 2020. One of those re-

Ready For Spring While Winter Lingers On

mindings is the difficulty when rain or freezing rain/sleet fall during a snowstorm. You may have noticed that on Super Bowl Sunday, we received less than the four inches of snow which triggers our plowing operations. Due to the slush that accumulated, combined with the forecasted temperature plunge overnight, we knew that this slush would turn into an icy rock and cause issues the next day for commuters or overnight for emergency response personnel. A particular issue we faced was that there were already mountains of snow still present in our town from a couple of days before. We felt that another "curb-to-curb" sweep of Pennsauken would plow significant slush and snow back into driveway aprons and against street-parked cars. Considering that this would freeze overnight, we did

not want to create more work for the residents in digging out again and simultaneously increase complaints for the same. That day's decision to make a quick pass or two up the middle of each street allowed the main driving lane to be free of frozen slush and avoid the plowing-in of driveways. We can all agree that the dry, fluffy snow is the best due to its reduced weight and ease of shoveling. This applies to our operations at Public Works, as the removal is far less difficult and causes less complaints overall. Here's to hoping that February was the lion and March is the lamb!

Potholes

As we look forward to the sunny days and warmer weather of spring, Old Man Winter leaves us a few reminders of his stay here in Pennsauken. Potholes are a common occurrence in our part of the country, mainly because of the ex-

treme cold of our winters to the unbearable heat of the summer, causing weaknesses in our asphalt roads. When water infiltrates the asphalt and gets into the "base" layer below, the water will freeze and thaw, causing the road to heave up or sink down. When a vehicle weighing a couple thousand pounds drives over this area, the asphalt gives out. Our department has a road patch crew that addresses potholes on Township roads. You may notice our crew temporarily filling a pothole with crushed concrete. This is usually done to remedy the immediate safety concern of the pothole during cold weather that may compromise our permanent patch, or when temperatures are too low that our asphalt supplier is closed. Since our area gets a bit of relief every couple of weeks with temperatures in the 40's, a long-term repair can be made with asphalt. Feel free to contact us if you find a pot-

hole anywhere in Pennsauken.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

Camden County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event will be held on Saturday, March 20, at Cherry Hill Public Works, 1 Perina Boulevard, Cherry Hill, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please note that this event is subject to cancellation due to the ongoing pandemic. As such, the County asks that all residents planning to attend this event visit CamdenCounty.com or call (856) 858-5241 no more than seven days prior to the event to confirm the status. All participating residents are required to wear masks; they will be instructed to remain in their vehicles with the windows rolled up throughout the event; and all materials to be dropped off should be placed in the trunk, rear cargo area, or pick-up bed. Materials should not be placed in the passenger seating area. The County also asks that you please limit the number of occupants within your vehicle.

Stay warm and safe while we get through the last weeks of winter. Have questions or concerns? Contact Public Works at (856) 663-0178 or public-works@twp.pennsauken.nj.us. You can also visit us at "Pennsauken Department of Public Works" on Facebook.

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TALKIN' TRASH

Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pickup, are on normal schedule this month, extreme weather permitting.

Camden County has scheduled a Household Hazardous Waste collection event on Saturday, March 20, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Cherry Hill Public Works, 1 Perina Boulevard, Cherry Hill, N.J. For details on the event's social distancing guidelines, read the Public Works article on this page.



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Health Tips To Navigate Year Two Of The Pandemic

(Family Features) After months of unfamiliar restrictions and guidelines, pandemic fatigue is affecting how some Americans protect their health. However, experts warn that diligence is still extremely important because new mutations and variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are being discovered. The typical cold and flu season also brings added threats to people's health and wellness.

"Staying diligent is one of the most important things we can do as we navigate through cold and flu season as well as the COVID pandemic," said family medicine physician Dr. Jennifer Caudle.

Though you may still be spending more time at home, it's important to take proactive steps to maintain your health. Caudle offers these practical tips to help protect your health while you're waiting for vaccination eligibility amid the pandemic this cold and flu season.

Avoid Exposure

As COVID-19 continues to impact



Don't let pandemic fatigue impact how you're protecting your health. Staying diligent is still important. Photo courtesy of Getty Images.

communities from coast to coast, there's no better time to avoid getting sick. Even if you catch a less serious illness like a cold or the flu, health care professionals in many areas are stretched thin. What's more, getting sick could compromise your immune system, making you more susceptible to a more serious infection.

Minimizing your risk of exposure means limiting close contact with others outside your household, wearing a mask and washing your hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based sanitizer that is at least 60 percent alcohol can substitute for hand washing, if necessary.

Practice Self-Care

Staying healthy isn't just about avoiding germs. Managing your physical health means keeping your body in top condition by eating right, exercising, getting enough sleep and ditching habits that can negatively impact your body, like smoking and excess drinking. It's also important to monitor your mental health since factors like stress and depression can take a physical toll that impacts your body's immune response.

Pinpoint Symptoms

If you get sick, it's important to pay close attention to your symptoms. However, this cold and flu season brings a unique variable with the possibility that your symptoms may actually stem from a mild case of COVID-19. Weather may also fuel stronger than usual allergy responses, so distinguishing between cold, flu, COVID-19 and allergy symptoms can be especially tricky. Testing may be necessary to get the proper diagnosis and ensure you're taking the right precau-

tions to prevent the spread of any infection. If you have questions or concerns about your symptoms or about COVID-19, consult your health care professional.

Treat Symptoms

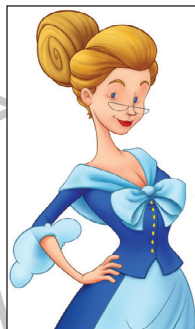
Depending on your diagnosis, a health care professional may suggest medication to help treat symptoms until your illness runs its course. There are a variety of products available over the counter that are commonly used to treat symptoms of respiratory viral infections. Many provide relief from multiple symptoms in a single dose. For example, an option like Mucinex DM lasts 12 hours when used as directed and contains dextromethorphan, which helps to control cough, and guaifenesin to help thin and loosen mucus.

You can identify the right formula to provide relief based on symptoms you are experiencing by using the online tool at Mucinex.com, where you can also find more information regarding self-care remedies.

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Saying "I Do" On Valentine's Day



An annual Valentine's Day tradition, Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista performed the marriage ceremony of Township residents Frederick Peralta and Kimberly Cordero. Congratulations to the happy couple!

SENIORCORNER

Camden County Offers Online Support For Caregivers

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

"Branching Out to Caregivers" is a caregiver support group that provides resources and health caregiving. Held using Zoom because of the pandemic, attendees can log on to learn about caregiver stress, legal concerns, respite pro-

grams, adult medical day centers, Alzheimer's and dementia education, and much more. This event is presented by the Camden County Commissioners, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabled Services, and ADRC.

Upcoming dates for the support group are March 16, April 20, and May 18.

For virtual meeting information, visit www.CamdenCounty.com/Caregivers. To R.S.V.P., contact Erin Small Gabriel at (856) 374-2582 or erin.small@camdencounty.com.

Best wishes for continued health, particularly during these times. Be sure to say a prayer for our soldiers serving overseas.

PHSAA Holds Virtual Basket Auction For Scholarships

This time last year, the Pennsauken High School Alumni Association (PHSAA) was planning a bowling and basket auction event to raise funds for scholarships for Pennsauken High School graduating seniors. As with so many other events, the fundraiser was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With donations already in hand and no end in sight to be able to safely hold a large event in person, PHSAA decided to revive the event, but hold it virtually. They have booked an online, virtual basket auction event through 32auctions.com. The PHSAA Bowling for Scholarships event is now PHSAA Bidding for Scholarships!

The virtual online platform will present each basket with a description and a picture. People will be able to sign on to

the event and bid on items. You can follow along with the bidding and at the end of the bid period, the high bid wins. PHSAA Bidding for Scholarships will have two bidding days, Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21, from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. The online web address for this auction is 32auctions.com/PHSAA.

For complete details and previews, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PennsaukenHSAumniAssociation. This is a public page, so you do not have to have a Facebook account to view it. If you are an Instagram user, follow us @pennsaukenhsalumniassoc. The PHSAA website can be found at www.high.pennsauken.net and clicking the alumni page.

Please help PHSAA fund scholarships for graduating PHS seniors: our future alumni!

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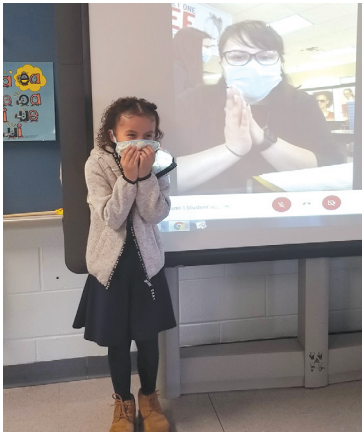
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inSchool

Carson School Student Of The Month Assembly



During Carson's virtual Students of the Month assembly, Alanna Serrano from Ms. Barnstead's first grade class was so excited to hear her name called for Student of the Month. Special surprise guests, such as Alanna's grandmother from Florida, as well as her aunt, seen here, logged into Google Meet to help celebrate. Congratulations of all of our Students of the Month!

Show And Tell At Baldwin



Remote pre-k students in Mrs. Kokolis' class participated in their weekly show and tell, highlighting items that began with the letter "M." These creative children showed magnets, mittens, monkeys, a mirror, make-up, money, masks, and more!

Alpha Kappa Alpha Well Represented At Phifer

Phifer staff celebrates Black History Month with members of the first Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., which was established on January 15, 1908. These ladies share their sorority membership and sisterhood with the first female Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris!



Visit our Web Site www.pennsauken.net

Meet our Board of Education
Find information on our schools
Visit the School Calendar
See Sports Schedules & more!
Read Home & School Newsletter

Phifer Gets Excited For Spirit Days



Phifer Middle School enjoyed Spirit Days during our hybrid school schedule! These students wore colored shirts that showed their support for Gold Wing.

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:
Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net



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By the Pennsauken Board of Education:
Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice
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Board Congratulates Dr. Tarchichi On Second Doctorate

Maria James; Samer John Jarboun-
Rafeh; Diane Johnson; Scott La Vine;
and Orlando Viera

Pennsauken Public Schools have kicked off the third marking period. As students focus on their studies and keep track of their goals during this trying time, we would like to highlight our chief school administrator, who is setting a great example for self-dedication and perseverance.

The Pennsauken Board of Education would like to congratulate our superintendent, Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, on the commendable achievement of earning his second doctoral degree. On December 17, 2020, Dr. Tarchichi graduated from Temple University with his Ph.D. He also has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Rowan University.

Obtaining a doctoral degree is not an easy task; one has to sacrifice a lot to earn this. This is a commendable achievement, and the board members are very proud of his accomplishments.

Since beginning his tenure at Pennsauken Public Schools in 2016, Dr. T has worked diligently for the District, staff, students, and families. Countless positive changes have been made to Pennsauken

Public Schools under his leadership. There are large improvements, like our academics and career and technical courses at Pennsauken High School; our new Rick Taylor Field House; the turf field at the high school; and security vestibules at the entrance of each school, just to name a few. He also brought more personal changes, like more trips and activities for the students; new school-sponsored community events; and stronger communication with families and residents.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic hitting in March 2020, Dr. Tarchichi continued his schooling for his Ph.D., while working hard to keep our District on track with the quick shutdown of schools last spring. He has proven, despite bumps in the road and curves in one's journey,

that if we stay focused, we can accomplish anything. Dr. Tarchichi works hard to lead and sets a positive example to all of us, our students especially.

The June 2016 issue of All Around Pennsauken contained an article, "Tarchichi New Superintendent Of Schools," that introduced Dr. T to our town. In that article Dr. Tarchichi said, "I think if you're in a profession, you should be the best." He has proven that true, as he successfully continues to educate himself while always encouraging others to do the same.

Congratulations Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi! We are truly happy for your success; you will always be a source of inspiration to all of us.

Cooking For Our Favorite Teachers



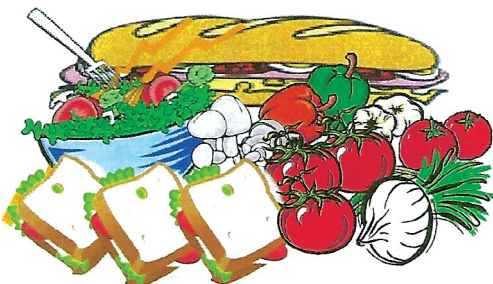
Phifer students use the life skills room to make pancakes for their teachers! Teachers often collaborate with other classes to foster peer role modeling.

Random Acts Of Kindness Week At Delair



Delair celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week by thanking our mail carrier and school nurse with notes of gratitude! Our art teacher, Mrs. Moreau, decorated the binder for the notes that each child wrote, and student representatives presented them to these special people!

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Delair Students Help With Announcements



Morning announcer Miss V. Han at work! She announced our daily Pledge of Allegiance, Peace Pledge, and the weather. A Black History daily inspiration followed from Principal Lawrence. Student announcers read the morning announcements daily.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi,
MEd², M.S., M.B.S., M.A.²,
Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent,
Pennsauken Public Schools

As The Semester Continues In Pennsauken

As we approach the historic date of March 13, where last year we had to close the schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic and began the remote learning process, I would like to focus not on the negative, but on the positive. This has been a difficult time for our parents, our students, our administrators, our teachers, and all of our staff. However, we have offered our students both full day hybrid learning and remote learning for those that request the accommodation. We, as a community, have done more than all of the surrounding communities in the county and the state. You have all done extremely well and I would like to tell everyone, especially our parents, who had to pivot and rearrange their lives during this process, that you have gone

above and beyond for our students and your children. There is a silver lining; and as we approach it, we look forward to more of a sense of normalcy for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

I would like to remind the Pennsauken Community that the month of March also has a positive implication for us, as a school district and community. On the 14th of March in 2018, we passed a historic vote in Pennsauken: a \$36 million bond referendum that helped to make Pennsauken Public Schools a model district of New Jersey and the country. The progress our District has made because of that vote has benefited our students' education, along with positively impacting property values in Pennsauken.

The changes made as a result of the referendum has enhanced the educational goals of Pennsauken Public Schools, with the intention of completely educating every student. These new opportunities offer individualized instruc-

tion in order for all students to achieve their own specific goals. Some of our students like vocational training; others, academic studies; and some have a love for athletics. Here at Pennsauken Public Schools, we believe that our students must enjoy learning; and this referendum allowed Pennsauken Public Schools to create additional programs of interest for all students. These changes have allowed our students to come first; and we are working to ensure that they have the best opportunities academically, vocationally, and athletically. The referendum catalyzes improvement of ALL schools. Some of the things we have done with your help include:

- Early education expansion with a free, full day pre-kindergarten
- Security vestibule renovations at ALL schools
- New windows and doors at Carson and Franklin elementary schools
- Adaptive reuse of the Longfellow

Elementary School site for a cutting-edge community playground and park

- New Earth, Physical Science and Biological Science laboratories at Phifer Middle School
- Improvements to the stadium including an eight-lane track, all-purpose turf field, new concession stand, and LIGHTS for Friday night games
- Complete auditorium renovations at Pennsauken High School and Phifer Middle School
- Library conversion to a new Media Center at the high school
- A weight room, Olympic weight room, and cardio room for all athletes
- A 15,000 square foot field house, with indoor track, indoor turf, Olympic weight training, and state-of-the-art training facilities for athletes

Moreover, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that we have added by school year include:

- 2016-17 – Automotive, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts
- 2017-18 – Electrical Construction, Welding, Criminal Justice, Air Force JROTC
- 2018-19 – HVAC, EMT and Fire Safety, Health Occupations

We are still in the process of building a Magnet High School on the Pennsauken High School Campus and converting Roosevelt School to a new STEM K-8 School with a focus on accelerated math and science curriculum. As we look forward to being on the other side of this pandemic, we have a lot to look forward to and be proud of as a community. Please pat yourselves on the back for a job well done this past year and the past five years for making our school district the best in New Jersey for our students. Our children deserve it, and they will reap the rewards.

Pennsauken's Mental Health Demonstration Grant Makes Important Progress

In October 2019, the Pennsauken School District, in collaboration with Rowan University's counseling and school psychology programs, received a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to assess current mental health services, as well as to collaborate with other organizations to initiate programs to help maximize the mental health of both staff and students. In that time, Pennsauken's Public Schools have made noticeable progress through a variety of initiatives:

- 397 students were identified through a reliable and valid screening tool as needing mental health services - out of these students, 201 were provided services due to parent permission

- The District had almost 100 participants in recent virtual Parent Information Nights, addressing topics focusing on the mental health needs of the student population, as well as available community resources
- Through a partnership with Rowan University, field interns/practicum students - the mental health clinicians of the future - were able to hold 212 sessions with Pennsauken students from January through March of 2020
- During the first year of the program, school attendance increased by 6.1 percent; in addition, the total number of conduct reports decreased by 21.8 percent

Grant funding has also enabled the District to install "sensory paths" in seven

schools, which have allowed students to push through their distractions and increase focus through a series of fun physical activities.

With the times we find ourselves in, it's even more important to focus on mental health. On March 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the District is hosting a virtual Parent Information Night on "Parenting During the Pandemic: Taking care of parents so they can take care of their children." Participants will be entered into a raffle to win prizes. The Pennsauken community is encouraged to join the District for this important presentation. For details, visit Pennsauken.net and select the "Parent Information Night" option under the "Mental Health" menu tab.

PEA Holds Spring Book Club

The Pennsauken Education Association (PEA) Family and Schools Together (FAST) Committee will be hosting a spring Book Club for the book, "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning Book," by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds.

This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's "Stamped from the Beginning" by Jason Reynolds reveals the history of racist ideas in America and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited. The

book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

The event will be held via Google Classroom. To arrange for a pick up of the book, complete the form at http://bit.ly/PEA_SpringBookClub2021.

The F.A.S.T. through Pennsauken PRIDE spring book club event is one of many PRIDE in Public Education activities to be carried out by the Pennsauken Education Association, designed to share the education successes of the Pennsauken School District with all Pennsauken residents, while building strong community support and involvement in our great public schools.

Thankfulness For An Amazing Trip

By Thomas Honeyman,
Principal, Fine Elementary

For my 50th birthday, I travelled to London, England in early February 2020 with 10 other friends to see professional soccer in England. Men from different families shared two separate AirBnB properties without a germ worry. We walked the busy Soho streets of London and entered several restaurants without a mask even in the far recesses of our brains. Thirty-five thousand fans packed into one stadium on Saturday and nearly 80,000 fans into another bigger one on

Sunday. People shouting and singing on top of one another. High fives and hugs.

I knew that I was extremely lucky; it was a weekend of a lifetime that I will never forget. Little did I know that weeks later, there would be a global pandemic shutdown. Hugs and high fives would disappear. The everyday occurrence of eating indoors would evaporate to restaurant emptiness. "Football" stadium seats would be wrapped in plastic covers.

A year later, we all know the effects of COVID-19. Over 500,000 families tragi-

cally know the worst effects of the global virus, but the rest of us know the everyday joys it has taken away from our lives. This pandemic has propelled the term "taken for granted" to a new level. There is so much that we took for granted before March 13, 2020.

Let us remember not to take for granted what we think are the "givens" in our life. Before March 2020, we could hug someone without a care. We could see a stranger's smile in the street. We could be with family and friends whenever we wanted. For those fortunate

enough not to have COVID-19 severely affect their lives, I hope this experience helps us all take stock of the everyday events that give us happiness.

With the impending vaccinations, we might get some of those high fives and family gatherings back in a way closer to "normal." I hope that helps all of us take stock of the good things we have in our lives before condemning the things we don't. Over half a million great Americans are no longer with us. We shouldn't take any small joy for granted in 2021.

Twice The Grinches, Double The Fun



Ms. Allen and Ms. Santiago get into the holiday spirit wearing their Grinch costumes right before winter break.

Fine Students Create Kindness Rocks

The week of Feb. 15 was Random Acts of Kindness Week across the nation. To celebrate, Fine students created kindness rocks during their classroom guidance lesson with counselor, Mrs. Crawford, and her student intern, Ms. Mary Hanley. The pair brainstormed this project to help bring smiles to students and staff during the winter days of a pandemic.

Students have been decorating rocks with kind messages and pictures to spread a little joy to the finder of the

rock. A "Kindness Rock Bed" will even be placed at the front of the school for all to see. Directions are on the underside of the rock to share your found rock on social media.

We hope this project brings a little sunshine to the finder's day. **KINDNESS ROCKS!**

Fine students painted rocks with positive messages as part of Random Acts of Kindness Week.



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Franklin's New Sensory Path

Through the District's Mental Health Demonstration Grant, Franklin Elementary, along with each elementary building from Baldwin to Pennsauken Intermediate, now has a sensory path. Designed by a mother-daughter duo of a special education teacher and graphic designer, sensory paths use a series of movements to decrease behaviors, while increasing cognition and self-regulation.

With Christine Caruso's hard work installing it, and a multitude of teachers taking time out of their schedules to demonstrate the path to their students, we have a whole school full of students gaining balance both physically and emotionally. Now let's hop to it!



Elementary schools throughout the District have had a sensory path installed to help calm students down and keep them focused.



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Traditional

Homemade pizza sauce, melted mozzarella cheese, pepperoni or Italian sausage, or a combination of both topped with grated romano cheese

Homemade Meatball

Atop our homemade gravy with melted provolone cheese and grated romano cheese

Cheesesteak

Fresh grilled steak, melted american cheese, with option of adding caramelized onion and hot cherry peppers

Reuben

Thin slices of corn beef, melted swiss cheese, sauerkraut, and russian dressing

Hawaiian

Grilled ham and mozzarella cheese topped off with pineapple and a drizzle of honey

Breakfast

Fresh scrambled eggs, shredded hashbrowns, melted cheese and your choice of bacon, sausage, bell peppers or porkroll

Caesar Salad

Romaine lettuce, cherry tomato, grated romano cheese and caesar dressing, on top of provolone cheese. (Grilled chicken additional charge)

Margherita

Homemade pizza sauce, fresh mozzarella cheese and basil with house grated romano cheese blend

Franklin's First Graders Got Slimed



First graders in Ms. Vesper's class learned how to make slime!

Ms. Vesper's first grade class did a writing project on how to make slime. As a class, they followed the steps by writing them down and completed them inde-

pendently. Each student ended up with their very own slime to take home! It was a fun activity that involved elements of writing and hands-on learning.

Happy Birthday Principal Allen!



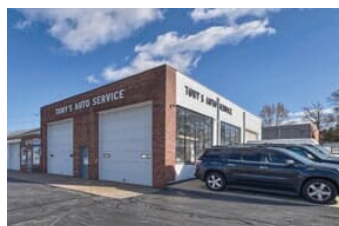
Last month Phifer Middle School Principal Sandra Allen celebrated her "25th" birthday! Phifer staff and students wished her a happy birthday and many more to come!

Snowy Fun



Baldwin students got outside and painted the snow for Art/PE class!

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Phifer Students Of The Month



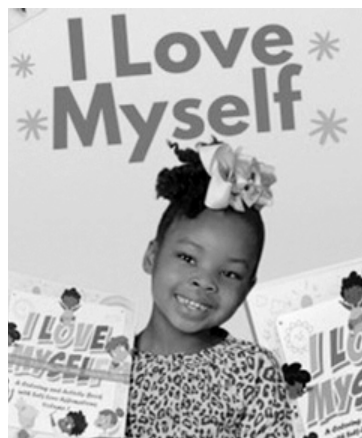
Every month, Phifer Middle School honors our students who perform well in class, have great attendance, and are all around great students. The Student of the Month program is meant to promote success in and out of the classroom. Congratulations to all of our students chosen as Student of the Month for the first semester of this school year!

Do You Want To Build A Snowman?



Mrs. Field's second grade class learned all about procedural writing, giving instructions, and using explicit details to describe how to build a snowman, just in time for our first big snowstorm of the year!

Carson First Grader Publishes Coloring Book



Carson first grader Ka'Maya Davis has published a children's coloring book called, "I Love Myself."

Ka'Maya Davis is on a mission: to help children love themselves! The six-year-old student in Ms. Gannon's first grade remote class at Carson Elementary has published a children's coloring book titled, "I Love Myself," filled with positive affirmations and representing children of all abilities and skin colors. Ka'Maya Shanelle (her pen name) was featured on several local news shows last month, as she tries to raise funds to donate 300 of her books to preschool children in impoverished areas of Philadelphia and South Jersey.

Carson Celebrates Students Of The Month



Even when we're learning from home, we can still achieve great things! Jaxon Alves from Mrs. Gannon's remote first grade class at Carson School is smiling from ear to ear after receiving his Student of the Month certificate and pencil in the mail for the month of January!

Baldwin Enjoy Fun Winter Lessons



Baldwin students learned about the importance of wearing winter clothes just as last month's snowstorm hit!

During the month of January, the students in Mrs. Romvary's preschool class learned about clothes and winter. They talked in detail about the special clothes that you need to wear to keep safe in the

cold weather. The snowstorm arrived just in time for the end of the study. It was a great way to celebrate learning about winter clothes!

On Your Marks... Get Set... GO!



Mrs. Kosmaczewski's class loves going fast on their scooters in Mr. McBride's eighth period gym class at Carson Elementary. Each student gets their own individual scooter, which is wiped down before and after. Safety first!

Pennsauken's Vazquez Receives Kidney Donation

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

In June of 2019, we published an article that we wrote about Juan Vazquez, a Pennsauken EMT in dire need of a kidney transplant. To date, it remains one of our most well read and shared articles

on social media. And out of the hundreds of shares and thousands of views, one click saved Juan's life.

Ashley Mitchell from Maple Shade is an EMT for that neighboring community, as well as for Waterford Township.

While not normally one to scroll through Facebook, she couldn't help but notice something.

"This article just caught my attention. It said, 'Pennsauken EMT In Need Of A Kidney.' He was a young EMT, just like me," explained Mitchell, who just happened to have the same rare blood type as Juan: O Positive. "Something touched me. I just knew I had to try and help this man."

"I did mostly medical transport early on. I saw the patients who were on dialysis. It consumes so much of your day. He's so young. He deserves a chance to see his kids grow up."

Ashley began the stringent process with Juan's transplant team to see if she was a match. And when she found out that she was, Mitchell sent a Facebook message to a man she had never met before to let him know she was willing to help. It read, "Hi Juan, my name is Ashley. I've been in the process of being evaluated to be your kidney donor for the past couple of months and it looks like I might be a good match."

Vazquez was floored.

"It was crazy," said Vazquez. "I responded and we kind of just talked from there and kept in touch."

The two met during a blood draw that determined that Juan's body wouldn't reject Ashley's kidney, and a surgery date of April 28, 2020 was set. Then the pandemic hit.

"The surgery got canceled because of COVID-19," said Juan. It was disappointing, but I would have been perfectly understanding if she changed her mind."

But Ashley was determined to quite literally, give of herself. Several months went by without a word. Then in late summer 2020, they got the call. Transplant day would be Aug. 25.

Harvesting Mitchell's kidney took three hours. For Vazquez, it seemed like an eternity.

"I just kept asking them if she was okay," explained Juan. "You get really nervous the whole time. My surgery took six and a half hours. You get all these thoughts. You hope nothing goes wrong."

Juan's eyes closed having kidneys that barely functioned at five percent.

When he reopened them, an extremely thankful Vazquez had a brand-new lease on life.

"I was so out of it; I was blowing kisses to Ashley as she was wheeled by."

Mitchell's recovery took several weeks, but she's back on the job as an EMT. She's also studying pre-nursing and is looking to apply to nursing school. After a few months, Vazquez returned to work for the Township, this time as a building inspector. And he feels fantastic.

"Kidney disease and dialysis wipe you out. After the transplant, you forget what it's like to be normal."

Their donation journey took a year and a half; in that time, Ashley and Juan went from perfect strangers to much more than just a caring donor and a grateful recipient.

"We talk all the time and got together at Christmas," said Ashley. "Juan, his wife, and kids are extended family."

"Ashley's amazing. I can't use enough words to describe how great she is," adds Juan. "She's my angel."

All because of a Facebook click.



Kidney donor Ashley Mitchell of Maple Shade saved the life of Pennsauken resident Juan Vazquez.



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Gudis Moves On After Over Twenty-Seven Years Of Service

On March 1, Alan Gudis is moving on from the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority after 27 and a half years of service to the Township Community.

Gudis started with the PSA on September 1, 1993 as a maintenance operator. Over the years, Alan advanced with the company, ultimately becoming a supervisor.

"The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is a great company to work for, has great people to work with, and is in a



PSA Supervisor
Alan Gudis

great town to live," said Gudis. "The Authority has given me so many opportunities, to broaden my horizons and my education. I've really been fortunate."

Gudis is making a change in career and plans to work with his brother at BGA Insurance Group as an insurance agent. He also is looking forward to doing some traveling and hitting the links more at the Pennsauken Country Club.

"I want to thank the Commissioners at the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority; Bill Orth, Thom Tillinghast, and Marco DiBattista; and the entire staff at the PSA. It's been a great 27 and a half years."

REMINDER:

CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In light of Covid-19 the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority office has closed its offices and drive-thru as of Friday, November 20, 2020 and will reopen at a date not yet determined. We will be continuing to monitor the situation closely.

To make payments you can leave a check or money order in our drop box (do not leave cash), or mail to PO Box 518, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. You can also make a payment using your online banking. Lastly you can go to our website, psewer.com and click on the pay online button and follow the instructions. You will need your account id and pin.

If there is a sewer emergency you are to call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and even supposedly "flushable" wipes (they are not flushable or biodegradable), cannot be flushed down the toilet. The system can accommodate toilet paper, which is made to disintegrate quickly in water, but wipes and other materials, which don't break down as readily, clog pipes. That means sewer backups into the homes of the users or of others, as clogs form down the line. These blockages require jetting of the sewer main to clear.

We are seeing an increase in volume, which is to be expected given the num-

ber of people staying in their homes as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

It's to everybody's benefit to use only toilet paper. Wipes might be able to flush, but that's when the unseen problems begin. While disposable wipes are a convenient and easy-to-use product that serve a variety of helpful purposes, they should be thrown in the trash following use. If manufacturers deem a product unsafe to go down the drain, it will be labeled on the packing. While there is debate over whether wipes labeled as "flushable" are truly safe for sewers, nonflushable products, like baby wipes, wet wipes and disinfectant wipes, are for your trash can.

In addition to stoppages in the main

line, which could cause a backup into homes and businesses, the potential for widespread service interruptions are possible if these nonflushable items reach a lift station and clog a pump. Not to mention the costs associated with removing a pump to clear the clog, which are borne by our rate payers.

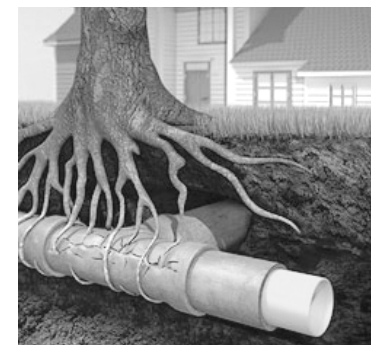
The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents during the State of Emergency. We have enacted a "No Public Contact" policy for the protection of our neighbors and our employees, but we will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance, call (856) 662-0686.

Tree Roots Can Block Sewer Lines

With spring also comes renewed and vigorous growth of tree roots that can block sewer lines. We take every possible effort to keep our main lines free of roots through our maintenance program. The lateral line from your house to our main line, however, is the homeowner's responsibility.

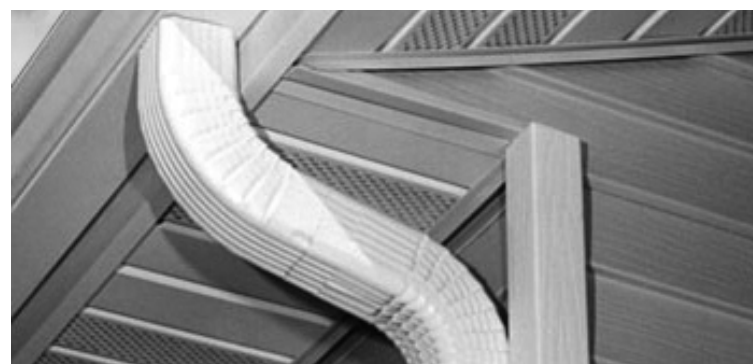
If you have had a problem in the past, you are probably aware of the signs to

look for (slow drainage or a periodic back up). If you experience these problems, consider calling a plumber to check for tree roots. The plumber can remove the roots from your line. And, if you suspect the problem is in the main line, please call the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority at (856) 662-0686, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Improper Connections Cause Property Damage

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



GRAYMATTERS A Hope Of Spring In The Midst Of Snowflakes

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

I'm sitting here at my computer on a blustery January day, with a windchill factor of 12 degrees; overly frosted windows; and a backyard that is more rock solid than the concrete in my driveway. And yet... when this column reaches your hands, it will be March, the month we welcome in the hyacinths, daffodils, and crocuses. When the vernal equinox turns our lawns a lush green; and buds are sprouting on our trees to welcome the swallows and sparrows, bluebirds and robins, calling them

once more to build nests among their sturdy branches.

I'm getting ahead of myself here, but it's also the time I'm starting to think about those glorious Jersey tomatoes that will grow in my backyard, making yummy sandwiches for me until early October. It's also the time for seeing the colorful butterflies and hummingbirds fluttering around the lantanas in my sun-filled window boxes.

Springtime also has a whole lot of us itching to head down the shore for some much-needed R&R, this year in particular. I know I'm ready for a trip to Townsends Inlet. I guess when you think

about it, springtime really is quite a beautiful and hopeful season, isn't it?

I remember reading once that spring never fails to resume its loveliness; and when it does, the human soul is most apt to revive also.

Not so oddly enough, as I look out my frosted window one more time, I somehow see far beyond the mini ice flakes directly into that spring that never fails, and I truly feel revived at the mere thought of it.

And that glorious jersey tomato sandwich doesn't seem that far out of reach now either.

See what a little hope can do?

Happy springtime, my friends!

Love, ~ Judy

Food Bank Of SJ Receives \$25,000 Donation From Dunkin'

The Food Bank of South Jersey received a \$25,500 donation from Dunkin' of Greater Philadelphia, as well as 1,000 pounds of coffee, to help fight hunger throughout the region. These donations come from Dunkin' of Greater Philadelphia's Roast Hunger program, which began on Thanksgiving Day through Dec. 9. For every large hot coffee purchased by DD Perks® members, Dunkin's Philadelphia-area franchisees donated \$1 to five regional food bank partners, including the Food Bank of South Jersey. This donation will directly support the food bank's mission to provide safe and nutritional food to people in need throughout South Jersey. The Dunkin' Community Cruiser was also

on-site, handing out free samples of hot coffee to volunteers and staff to celebrate the donation.

Since Dunkin's Roast Hunger program inception in 2011, local Dunkin' franchisees have been able to impact countless families in need and provide over 4 million meals to local communities. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Roast Hunger program, Dunkin' has surpassed a significant fundraising milestone of \$2 million donated in total over the last decade by local franchisees to help fight hunger in the greater Philadelphia region.

The Food Bank of South Jersey provides food to people in need, delivers health and wellness programs, and de-



The Food Bank of South Jersey received \$25,000 from Dunkin' of Greater Philadelphia to help fight hunger.

signs sustainable solutions to help people improve their lives. During 2020, the Food Bank of South Jersey distributed more than 22.5 million pounds of food, the equivalent of over 18.7 million meals.

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MPWC WATERLINES

Second Generation Water Commission Employee Retires After Over Forty-One Years Of Service



Water Treatment Technician Frank Benzenhafer is retiring from the MPWC after 41.5 years of service.

It is with both pride and sadness that the MPWC announces the retirement of Frank Benzenhafer, who proudly served the Water Commission for 41.5 years. Frank can boast that he retired as the longest-serving employee of the MPWC, with an original hire date of June 25, 1979. His service to the Commission, however, started even before that; as a young teenager being taken to work by his father, Frank Sr., who was also a water treatment technician. It was then that his education truly began and his passion for the water business was inspired.

The MPWC prides itself on providing the highest quality water at the least possible cost, and Frank's commitment to

water quality never wavered throughout his entire career. Frank served as a gentleman and a mentor to so many employees who were hired after him; he set the standard for both a solid work ethic and a commitment to customer service. Frank will be remembered for his many attributes: friendly, accommodating, knowledgeable, competent and most of all, willing to share what he learned and knew for the benefit of all.

Frank will be deeply missed, and we are grateful that he took the time throughout his career to educate, inform and assist all of those around him. We wish him a long, healthy, and well-deserved retirement!

A Message from the MPWC

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission remains steadfast in our commitment to provide our customers with clean, safe, and reliable water during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As you are likely aware, our service termination program has been suspended for nearly a year. During this time, your water accounts are not collecting interest or penalties. While we have not determined an exact date, please keep in mind that terminations will begin to happen again in the future, so it is very important for you to make payments if you are able.

You may continue to mail your payments to us, leave them in our drop box, or you can choose to take advantage of

our online or pay-by-phone systems.

If you'd like to pay online, please visit our website at www.mppwc.com and select the yellow button that says "access online bill pay." To make a payment by phone, please dial 1-844-611-4016.

If you have a water emergency, or specific questions regarding your account, we have Customer Support Staff and our 24-hour operators available to assist you by phone.

We encourage you to follow our official Facebook page and to visit our website for status updates and any important information that becomes available. We truly appreciate cooperation and hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy.

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

NEW for 2021: Because our lobby is currently closed to the public, we have mailed senior/disabled application forms to everyone currently receiving a discount. When you receive your form, complete it to the best of your ability and return it to us via U.S. Mail or by leaving it in our drop box on the side of the building. If you have questions or need assistance with completing your form, contact our Customer Support Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Remember: if you are currently receiving a discount, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount.

If you are applying for the first time, please contact our office to request a form and to discuss the eligibility requirements.

You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mppwc.com.

Keep Informed With Reverse 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

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In the GARDEN Consider Starting Your Garden Now Using Seeds

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Hello and welcome to my new column! My name is Victoria Rose and I love to garden. I hope to inspire you to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Just because it is cold and snowing as I write this does not mean we cannot prepare for planting this spring. Have

you ever wanted to grow your own vegetable garden? Now is the time to get started. Why not give it a try?

You can purchase seeds and even complete seed starter kits online – I sense another Amazon package in my future – or in a variety of retail stores like Walmart and Home Depot. You can also find them at your garden

centers. There are plenty of YouTube videos and websites to show you just how to plant your future produce. Be sure to follow the directions for planting, watering, and proper location to keep your starter trays growing with enough time to be ready for planting in May. Some seeds that you can get

started indoors this March include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, tomatoes, and peppers.

On a nice, sunny day, you could spend some time outside clearing away any remaining fallen leaves and sticks from your property. Take your time and breathe in that fresh, clean air. Enjoy the

sounds of the birds and feel the calming motion of the tree branches in the breeze as they patiently await to bloom again. You'll be ready to hit those garden beds before you know it!

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!



High Demand Reduces AARP Tax-Aide Services

continued from page 1

taxpayers complete their own tax return for the very first time electronically as the taxpayer gets when they realize that they did it themselves, with a bit of coaching.

Participants can ONLY request virtual tax prep assistance through the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation's website www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide. Participants

must provide a private email address.

Please do not contact the Pennsauken Library about the AARP Tax-Aide service offerings. They are wonderful, supportive hosts, but they are not AARP Tax-Aide volunteers. The link referenced above has been shared with the Library. As of this writing, the Library's public computers are not available for use.

Pennsauken To Host Drive Thru Easter Event On March 27

continued from page 1

do something for Pennsauken's kids similar to what we did with Santa and our town's tree lighting," said Tim Kilion, the member of Township Committee in charge of helping put together community events. "As the weather gets warmer, Township Committee is work-

ing with our Parks and Recreation Department to come up with community events that allow us to celebrate together safely."

For updates, visit the Township website at twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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EDITOR'S Just How Lucky Can One Person Be?

DESK



By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

Great news! After I wrote about the insane odds of winning the Powerball, I got a message from one of the winners! She told me I have a \$1.8 million donation coming to me, because, and I quote, my "email came out victorious." That's awesome!

Then, I got ANOTHER email! UNICEF and the European Union want to give me \$600,000! Hooray for Europe!

And then, my phone blew up! The Post Office wanted to give me money for delayed packages. Plus, I came in first place in the Connecticut AT&T Awards! What are the odds?

These are all scams of course, looking to bilk people out of their hard-earned cash. I'm lucky enough to see through the ruse. Unfortunately, others aren't. In fact, with the way 2020 turned out and how 2021 is shaping up, it wouldn't be hard to think that good luck has packed its bags and headed to Disneyland for an extended, non-refundable vacation, only

to find it closed because of the pandemic.

But as crazy and downright depressing things have been in the past 365 days, there have been hints that our collective luck might be changing for the better.

The vaccines are out there; if you haven't received one yet, I hope you're lucky enough to get an appointment. Believe me, I'm still trying too.

With everyone staying at home, we've been lucky to see what's really important. As nuts as my family can drive me, the time I've been spending with the wife and kids has been priceless.

We're also extremely lucky to live in Pennsauken. Whether you're new to

town, or lived here your entire life, there's something special about this place. We're a community that rallies together. When something's wrong, we work to fix it. And there's no other place I'd rather call home.

And finally, you might be luckier to not get what you're looking for. As a green-blooded science officer used to say, "After a time, you may find that having is not so pleasing a thing after all as wanting. It is not logical, but it is often true."

So whether it's March 17, or just a random Wednesday, I hope that the luck you have – whether you find it or make it on your own – is just the kind you need.

Press Start: Game Adventures Found At AllAroundPennsauken.com

Food Adventures is branching out! Game Adventures, a new partner column with Food Adventures, will be bringing you lots of fun news and facts on everything that has to do with games. We will discuss anything from tabletop board games to old school Nintendo favorites and all that's in between. Stay tuned and check out the articles which

will be released digitally at AllAroundPennsauken.com every few weeks. If you have topics you'd like to know more about in the gaming world, please email Foodadventurespennsauken@gmail.com. And be sure to keep a watchful eye to the digital horizon for AAP Game Adventures on social media!

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Local Food Pantries Helping Those In Need

March is National Nutrition Month, a time to stress the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthy eating habits. But for many in the South Jersey community, it's a struggle to find where their next meal is coming from, regardless of its nutritional value. According to data from the Food Bank of South Jersey, over 22.5 million pounds of food – the equivalent of more than 18.7 million meals – were distributed in 2020 to individuals and families throughout Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties. And with more New Jersey residents dealing with unemployment and poverty because of the pandemic, those numbers continue to rise.

"While you often can't see it on the surface, food insecurity is a real concern in both our community and our region," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "Locally, there are several food

pantries that work diligently to help those in need."

The following is a list of Pennsauken-based food pantries:

- Circle of Hope (food delivered to an individual's home); every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 320-8230
- Gates of Praise, 6345 Wisteria Ave.; every second and fourth Friday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; (856) 473-5417
- Love Ministries Outreach International, Inc., 1601 Bethel Ave.; every Tuesday and Thursday, as well as every second Monday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 356-2675
- Martin Luther Chapel, 4100 Terrace Ave.; every second Wednesday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; (856) 665-0116
- Mary Queen of All Saints, 4824 Camden Ave.; Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.; (856) 662-2721
- Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton

Rd.; every first Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 662-8500

- Saint Matthew's Methodist Church, 1665 Derousse Ave.; every third Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (856) 662-3610
- Serenity Christian Worship Center, 3555 Haddonfield Rd. – Suite B; every third Friday, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and every third Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 330-4915
- Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Rt. 130; every fourth Saturday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.; (856) 663-7783

Volunteers, as well as food and financial donations, are greatly appreciated by these organizations; to do so, please reach out using the contact information provided in this article.

A special thank you to Ken Diaz for compiling the information on the food pantries.

Mayors DiBattista, Brennan To Speak At Virtual PMAC Event

Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at a virtual meeting of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, March 10, noon, via Zoom.

To R.S.V.P. and for information on how to participate, contact Nancy Ellis



Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at a virtual PMAC networking meeting on March 10.

at pmac1team@gmail.com by Monday, March 8.

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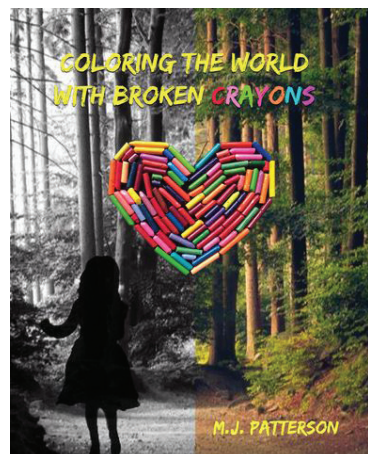
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pennsauken Resident Gets Personal In Book About Mental Health Journey

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor



Written by Pennsauken resident M.J. Patterson, "Coloring the World with Broken Crayons" highlights her lifelong struggle with bipolar disorder.

M.J. Patterson has written about her journey dealing with bipolar disorder in her first book, "Coloring the World with Broken Crayons."

"It's about my lifelong struggle as an African American woman with mental illness," explained Patterson. "Even though I didn't know it at the time, I was showing signs of mental illness at the age of eight."

"Coloring the World with Broken Crayons" shares Patterson's experiences through the story of fictional character Esmene Munroe, someone who seems to have the perfect life on the outside, while facing an internal, ongoing battle. Then, according to the book's description, "the lock on Esmene's closet broke and all the skeletons of her childhood came tumbling out. From then on, Es-

mene allowed herself to be consumed by the mental illness that she had always managed to keep at bay. Just when it looked like Esmene, a victim of pedophilia, lost her will to live, she accepted the fact that she needed help and embarked on a journey of self-discovery, truth, and acceptance."

"Each chapter is a mini story about my life," explained Patterson, who attended St. Cecilia's School and is a member of Pennsauken High School's Class of 1993. "I had been trying to write this for 20 years. I had to piece it together linearly, but it

was still a sporadic mess. You could tell that someone with bipolar disorder wrote it."

To help M.J. properly tell her story, she reached out to her old AP English teacher from PHS, Paul Kasselmann.

"He had retired, but we kept running into each other," said M.J. "He showed me the errors that I made. He really gave it structure. I couldn't have done this without him."

The goal of the novel, which is geared for young adults, is to help break through the stereotypes associated with illnesses like bipolar disorder.

"There's a stigma with mental illness in the African American community. I want black and brown girls know they're not alone when they go through this. It's not a dirty little secret. Had I known that stuff like this existed, I could have better fought for myself. Bipolar disorder cost me my job. It almost cost me my life. Children and their parents need to recognize these things."

"Coloring the World with Broken Crayons" can be found on Amazon and Kindle.

Camden County Hero Scholarship Accepting Applications From Eligible High School Seniors

The Camden County Hero Scholarship is pleased to announce its' 2021 Scholarship Program. Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who have a parent actively serving Camden County, or they themselves serve Camden County in a public safety capacity. One award will be presented in each field of service: Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS.

A \$1,500 scholarship in memory of Chief Gary R. Cline, Ret., Merchantville Police Department, will be offered to a graduating high school senior pursuing a career in law enforcement.

A \$1,500 scholarship in memory of Chief Gene Dannenfelser, Ret., Cam-

CAMDEN COUNTY
Hero Scholarship Fund

den County Fire Marshal's Office, will be offered to a graduating high school senior pursuing a career in fire service.

A \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Cpl. Christopher Milito, Delaware River Port Authority Police Department, will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who has a parent serving in law enforcement at the time of application. This scholarship award is sponsored by DRPA Penn-Jersey Lodge #30 on behalf of the Milito family.

Scholarships are awarded on a one-time basis for the 2020-2021 academic

year. Award criteria includes academic performance, community service, extracurricular activities, and financial need.

The application deadline is April 15, 2021. Applications are also available online at www.camdencountyhero.com, by emailing a request to dawn@camden-countyhero.com, by calling the office at (856) 768-9656, or at the guidance departments of all Camden County high schools. The Scholarship Committee will review and approve applications impartially with no knowledge of the applicants' identities. All decisions of the selection committee are final.

Announcement of the awards will be made in late May/early June.

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FOODADVENTURES

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

March is National Sauce Month! I often talk about the glory that is food and the adventures that I have in eating different, delightful things throughout my days. But I think I have failed, in some ways, to highlight what often ends up being the pillar of a truly great dish: the sauce. In many cultures and places all over the world, the protein of a dish is an afterthought. The star is the base, the sauce, the au jus. I found in my brief time in New Orleans that a good roux makes even the clumsiest gumbo outstanding. In Thailand, a simple fish becomes the most emotion evoking thing you could eat, once a barrage of coconut milk and curry powder and chilis are brought in. You can also ask any health food fan out there and they'll agree that sometimes even the healthiest thing you can eat can still stay that way but deliver an amazing flavor. All. Because. Of. The. Sauce. I say this having eaten tofu with and without a good sauce.

Where the history of sauce began? Using Google, I found a reference to the Aztecs using a type of tomato sauce in a seafood dish. That was somewhere in the early 1500s, but I doubt very much that this was the first use of sauce. Even fur-

Celebrating National Sauce Month

ther back you had Romans in 200 AD using sauces on foods that didn't taste too great. The word sauce literally means "a relish to make food more appetizing." In my head, I picture one of our ancient ancestors taking whatever protein they are consuming and mixing it with fruit juices or oils from some exotic plant. These are what I expect the first real sauce would be.

There are dozens, if not hundreds, of different sauces that exist all over the world. As far as the U.S. goes, we have about 11 solid sauce bases and that doesn't include the eight additional sauces found in Puerto Rico. I realized that with just the restaurants we have in Pennsauken, we could cover nearly anywhere in the world and the sauces they offer. Tierra Colombia has Colombian style sofrito. La Hacienda has moles and pic de gallo. Thai Son has hot and sweet chili sauces. Lizzyboat African Market has chilis, pastes, and oils you can purchase. And Associated Supermarket on Westfield has aisles worth of sauces from all over for you to try. What we can't find in town – which probably isn't much – a short drive to Philadelphia offers world cultures at your fingertips.

I'm a HUGE fan of hot sauces espe-

cially. For Christmas, I was even gifted some Carolina Reaper pepper hot sauce. I find that places like the Berlin and Columbus flea markets offer up some fun hot sauce, BBQ sauce and honey options. These places are definitely worth

taking advantage of if you can.

So, I call to all my readers! Get lost in the sauce. Revel in the complexity of a dish that a good sauce brings. Become a mad scientist in your kitchen and concoct your own, new flavors and as al-

ways, enjoy your Food Adventures!

If you have a favorite sauce you want to gab about you can head to my All Around Pennsauken Food Adventures page on Facebook OR email me at Foodadventurespennsauken@gmail.com.

Big News For Vincent's Pizza

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

Holy Panzerotti Batman: Vincent's is accepting credit and debit cards now! According to a post on their Facebook page on February 8, 2021, the iconic purveyor of Panzerottis are now accepting multiple major credit cards and debit cards. Up until now Vincent's Pizza, lo-

cated at 17 W Park Ave. in Merchantville, had been cash only.

Check out their menu online at VincentsPizzaNJ.com for all of the specials they have to offer. They are great for order ahead or walk-in meals. You can reach them by phone at (856) 663-8879.

Public Works On The Job



During last month's snowstorm, Pennsauken's Department of Public Works worked round-the-clock to keep the Township's roadways passable.

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends' Virtual Wellness Programs Continue

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Count on the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Library for more wellness events to keep your spirits and body in tip-top shape, along with a contest to get your creative juices flowing!

In March, we'll be starting a month of Tai Chi Chih, a mindfulness moving meditation. The set of 19 movements and one pose is soft, flowing, and easy to learn. Benefits are said to include peace of mind, improved health, and a sense of

wellbeing, qualities these trying times have been draining from us. Classes take place on March 5 and 12 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Sessions on March 19 and 26 will focus on relaxing meditation; and we're back to chair yoga on April 9, 16, 23, and 30. All chair yoga sessions take from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., so plan for gentle stretching and a good workout!

You can register for all these classes by completing the form at <https://bit.ly/3cs4hqO>. You'll receive a confirmation email, along with a direct link to

the classes.

Poetry Contest Submissions Due April 30

It's not too early to start working on a poem for our upcoming annual Friends of the Library Poetry Contest. All submissions must be sent by Friday, April 30

at 6:00 p.m. via any one of three ways: an electronic PDF to folpensauken@gmail.com; mailed to the attention of the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library Poetry Contest, 5605 Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110; or hand delivered to the same address.

This contest is open to all Pennsauken

and Merchantville residents; applicants cannot have won in the previous two years. All entries must be original and not previously submitted for print or electronic publication. There is one entry per person.

For more details, visit PennsaukenLibraryFriends.org.



What Do The Lions Do For Our Community?

For more than 77 years, the Pennsauken Lions Club has dedicated itself to supporting many individuals and organizations. Working with our members, partners, and generous donors, we have helped to shape the lives of those in need and supported important causes in our community.

Through the work of the Lions Club Foundation started more than 50 years ago, it has been able to award over \$1 billion to local and global Lion projects and causes. These projects have been funded entirely by charitable donations from Lions Club members, friends, and partners in our communities. Thanks to this ongoing support, the Foundation has been able to provide over 13,000 grants that have focused on:

Vision – Preventing avoidable blindness in millions through our Sight First Program, which has provided 9.1 million cataract surgeries, 270.4 million treatments for river blindness, and trained

over 3 million ophthalmologists and other health workers.

Youth – Creating social and emotional learning programs delivered by specially trained educators through the Lions Quest program, benefitting more than 16 million youth both here and in 100+ countries.

Disaster Relief – Providing for immediate and long-term needs of natural disaster-afflicted communities through more than \$118 million in disaster relief grants.

Humanitarian Programs – Helping millions of people of all ages and abilities gain access to education, technology, health care, safe places for play, and many other life changing improvements.

These grants have enabled Lions to do what they do best: using a grassroots approach that allows members to act locally, while making a global impact; working with experienced volunteer leaders and technical advisors and staff that provide critical grant oversight and

accountability; and establishing collaborative partnerships with leading organizations that help expand the Lions efforts to support larger service activities.

As a Lion, you not only become just a member, but part of a network of organizations, businesses and community volunteers committed to making a difference for the betterment of our community.

The Pennsauken Lions Club continues to work and make this difference every day for our community. However, due to the ongoing pandemic and its restrictions on gatherings, the Club will continue to hold all their monthly meetings via Zoom on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like more information about the Lions, our meetings, learn how you can become a member, or donate to our vision efforts, contact us at [Facebook.com/pennsaukenlions](https://www.facebook.com/pennsaukenlions) or directly via email at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

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One Year Since The COVID-19 Quarantine: Where We Are Now

continued from page 1

Marco DiBattista. "Over 1,200 forms have already been sent to CAMcare, the healthcare center who is helping us with this initiative. They have been inputting this information into the system that the state uses for vaccine requests."

While outreach and resident engagement is strong, the program has faced some challenges. Nation-wide vaccine shortages and February's winter storms have caused significant delays.

"A lot of residents have been asking when and where in town they can get the shot," said Mayor DiBattista. "Committee is just as anxious to get this going as our neighbors are. There have been a lot of delays that are out of our control. We're asking for some patience. CAMcare is doing everything they can to get doses of the vaccine. As soon as they become available, they will be reaching out to residents who signed up, letting them know when and where to go. Believe me, as soon as we get that information, we'll be sharing that with our community."

Vaccine registration can be done at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Those individuals eligible under Phase 1B can pick up a form on the side of the Municipal Building – located on the right as



Over 1.6 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine have already been administered to New Jerseyans.

you enter the parking lot – in one of the wall file holders under the blue awning. The form can also be downloaded from the Township's website at www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/phase-1b-vaccine-site-open-pennsauken. After it's completed, it can be mailed back to the Municipal Building, or placed in the drop box immediately next to where the forms are located.

After CAMcare processes these forms and hears back from the state, individuals who registered will be contacted about how to schedule their vaccination. Walk-ins will not be allowed at this time. The timeline is based on current supplies and vaccine availability.

The Camden County Board of Commissioners, Cooper University Health

Care and Jefferson Health – New Jersey, are vaccinating individuals at the Camden County Vaccination Center, located at Camden County College – Blackwood Campus. Residents can find out if they're currently eligible to receive the vaccine, schedule an appointment, and access the full list of open vaccination sites throughout New Jersey by visiting Camdencounty.com/vaccineregistration.

Six mega sites throughout the state are serving as vaccination hubs for phased priority groups. To determine your eligibility to receive the vaccine, register through the New Jersey vaccine scheduling system, and view a list of vaccine locations for eligible recipients, visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>.

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inBooks

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Fine forgiveness does not apply to any items returned in damaged or unusable condition. If any returned items are damaged or unusable, you'll be responsible to pay for the replacement cost of that item.

If you had previously received a court ticket resulting from fines, please contact the Library at (856) 665-5959 ext. 3 or email admin@pennsaukenlibrary.org.

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www.pennsaukenlibrary.org

Monday: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

Hylick Keynote Speaker For New Jersey Makers Day



On March 19, Joylette Hylick, daughter of Katherine Johnson, NASA mathematician and subject of "Hidden Figures," will be the keynote speaker for the Library's celebration of New Jersey Makers Day. Joylette, a mathematician and IT professional herself, will give a special virtual presentation from 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. Visit pennsaukenlibrary.org for more details!

Programs For Children And Families

- **Preschool Storytime** – Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for virtual, interactive story time fun, live via Zoom! Aimed at increasing your child's vocabulary and attention span and teaching fine motor skills, story time combines reading with music, dancing, multilingual skills, finger-plays and rhymes. Online registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplstorytime>. Families only need to register ONCE to attend story time every week. For children ages 3+ and their caregivers.
- **What's New in Youth Services** – Friday, March 5; 10:00 a.m. On the first Friday of every month, Ms. Susan and Ms. Sabrina provide a quick virtual tour of the Youth Services Department, live on Facebook. This short program will include a discussion of new books and materials, upcoming programs, and any questions our live viewers may have.
- **New Jersey Makers Day Weekend** – Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20; 10:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. New Jersey Makers Day (NJMD) is an annual celebration of all things "making" at libraries all throughout the state. From science experiments and computers, to arts and crafts,

March Virtual Library Events

www.facebook.com/pennsaukenlibrary www.instagram.com/pennsaukenlibrary

NJMD aims to connect people from all walks of life through STEM, fun and learning of making and creativity. Friday's keynote speaker is Joylette Hylick, who will speak about her mother, Katherine Johnson, NASA mathematician and subject of "Hidden Figures," her own experiences, and the importance of STEM, especially for our young people. Our NJMD programs will be streamed live via YouTube and Facebook and have fun activities for all ages. Check the library website, pennsaukenlibrary.org, for more info and our NJMD maker kit giveaways.

- "I Won't Back Down," A Historical Re-enactment of Ida B. Wells' Life – Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. In honor of Women's History Month, historical reenactor Marilyn Larke will present the life of the trailblazing Black journalist and feminist, Ida B. Wells, in "I Won't Back Down." Wells was born into slavery, yet overcame obstacles by fighting for her people by using her pen and her voice. She founded the first Black Women's Suffragist Club in Chicago to encourage Black women to vote. Teens and adults may register at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplwells>.

Adult Services

- **A Day in the Life of an Ambassador** – Tuesday, March 9; 6:30 p.m. Pat Butenis, former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, will share lively stories and insights based on experiences during her posting, followed by a Q&A. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/pfpl-day21>. For all ages.
- **What Do I Read Next?** Spotlight on Romance – Thursday, March 25; 6:00 p.m. Whether you're already an avid

romance reader or are new to the genre after binge-watching "Bridgerton" on Netflix, you'll leave this session with a list of tantalizing titles to read next. Our expert presenters Stephanie Anderson and Robin Bradford will lead this lively hour-long session! Registration is free at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplromance>.

- **Ask-A-Librarian Live Online** – Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Have a question? Connect one-on-one with a librarian online. To participate, you must register ahead of time for a session with a librarian.

- for Tuesdays: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOTues>
- Register for Thursday: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOThurs>
- Register for Saturdays: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOSat>

Can't chat online? No problem. Call the Library anytime at (856) 665-5959 and leave a message. A member of the Library staff will return your phone call. Please dial ext. 4 for Reference or ext. 5 for Youth Services.

- **Free Wi-Fi Access** – No internet access at home? Pennsauken Free Public Library has you covered! The Library's free-to-all Wi-Fi extends beyond the building and out into the shared Library/Township Building parking lot. You are not required to have a library card in order to use the Wi-Fi, but you do need your own device. All information needed to connect to the "PennLib" Wi-Fi network, including the password, which is posted on the Library's front doors. Please remember to practice social distancing and remain six feet apart from other patrons who may also be using the Library's Wi-Fi.

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inSports Registration For Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League Ends March 6

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League is currently registering tee ball, baseball, and softball for the 2021 season. Now through March 6, boys ages 4 through 16 can sign up for baseball; and

girls ages 4 through 18 can register for softball.

"We're starting fresh and combining what was the Township's little league and creating an opportunity for kids in

Pennsauken and Merchantville to play together, have fun, and learn important life lessons through sports," said Bob Wetherspoon, president of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League.



"From here on out, everyone who wants to register for baseball and softball in both towns can do so with us."

The March 6 deadline is a hard date,

as the spring season begins on April 10. Those wishing to sign their child up for the Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League can do so online at MPLittleLeague.org. The League is always looking for volunteers. Interested parties can e-mail Bob Wetherspoon at merchantvillelittleleague@yahoo.com.

Pennsauken Student-Athletes Earn Scholarships

By Billy Snyder, Athletic Director, Pennsauken Public Schools

The Pennsauken Athletic Department is proud to announce three student-athletes who are receiving scholarships to play at the next level. It is a dream of just about every student-athlete to get a scholarship, but they are not that easy to earn. It takes academic and athletic talent, in addition to a tremendous amount of sacrifice and hard work for years to become a scholarship level athlete.

The Pope twins have been burning up the track, not only in South Jersey but also all over the East Coast. Jade Pope is receiving a full ride to DePaul University to continue her track career. Jasmine Pope was recruited by several schools and decided to take her talents to St. Peter's University and run for the Peacocks.

Eion Roman has been a four-year soccer starter for the Pennsauken's var-

sity soccer team. He also plays soccer year-round for the Medford Strikers. Eion is an outstanding student, as well as soccer player. He is receiving both an athletic and academic scholarship to attend Lock Haven University.

"I watched Eion play and was very impressed with his level of skill and work ethic," said Coach Patrick Long, Lock Haven University. "In talking with Eion throughout the recruiting process, I became even more impressed with him as a person. We decided as a staff to list him as our number one recruit. We are really excited to offer Eion the scholarship and have him join our Lock Haven family."

We congratulate Jade, Jasmine, and Eion on their accomplishments. The Pennsauken Athletic Department is the home of a lot of tremendous student-athletes; and more scholarships are coming! #BuildingChampions

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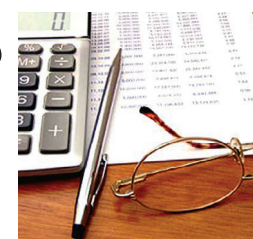
Online registration for spring intramural soccer has been extended to Friday, March 5. Sponsored by the Pennsauken Youth Soccer Club, the intramural program is co-ed and open to children living in Pennsauken and Merchantville. Players are divided into teams by age group.

Practices are typically an hour long, one night a week between Monday and Thursday. All intramural games are played on Friday night under the lights at our Pennsauken Soccer Complex at Westfield and Bethel avenues. For more information or to sign up your child, visit PennsaukenSoccer.com.

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